

The Quenya Workbook

Short lessons by Malinornë for The Council of Elrond, based on Helge Fauskanger's Quenya Course at Ardalambion. Accompanying exercises can be found in the online workbook, located in the Language section of CoE.

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Lesson 1: Pronunciation and stress

Notice that not all sounds in Quenya have exact equivalents in English, and also that the pronunciation of English sounds varies between different parts of the world. This makes it difficult to describe how Quenya ought to be pronounced in a way that is clear to everyone. Please take the time to listen to some Quenya sound files - there are links at the end of this lesson.

Vowels

The vowels in Quenya are pronounced distinctly in all positions. The difference between long and short vowels lies mainly in the length, not the quality, of the sound. Long vowels are marked with an acute accent.

á = long a, like in "father"

a = short ah, like the a in "aisle" [just a shorter version of the a in father]

é = long e, like in German "Mehr" [no exact equivalent in English... a long eh]

e = short eh, like in "end"

í = long i, like in "machine"

i = short i, like in "pit"

ó = long o, like in "sore"

o = short o, like in "box"

ú = long u, like in "brute"

u = short u, like in "put"

A diphthong is a combination of vowels that represent a single sound. There are 6 diphthongs in Quenya:

ai (as in "aisle"), au ("cow"), eu (British "so"), iu ("yule"), oi, ("oil") ui ("ruin"). Vowels in all other combinations are to be pronounced separately. This, as well as final e, is often marked by dieresis (two dots). The use of dieresis is optional, and it is not used in Tengwar writing.

Consonants

c = always pronounced as "k" ("come")

h = pronounced as "h" (hand) in the beginning of words, and as "ch" (German "Bach") between consonants. Not pronounced at all in the combinations hw, hw, hl, hr.

l = always like in "let"

r = trilled, as in Spanish, Italian, Russian and Scottish English. Not as in French.

s = always unvoiced as in "so"

y = always a consonant, pronounced like in "yes"

qu = "kw": the "u" in this combination does not count as a vowel; it is just another way to spell the "w" sound

A combination of consecutive consonants is called a consonant cluster.

Word stress

In words with two syllables, the stress falls on the first syllable.

In words with three or more syllables, the stress falls on the second to last syllable **if** it meets one of the following criteria:

- it contains a long vowel (long vowels are marked with an accent)
- it contains a diphthong
- it contains a short vowel followed by a consonant cluster

Otherwise, the stress falls on the third to last syllable.

Notice that, as a diphthong counts as one single sound, both vowels are stressed.

This is the only case where more than one vowel can receive the stress.

Examples (names):

Manwë (2 syllables, stress on first: MAN-we)

Elerína (4 syllables, stress on second to last: e-le-RI-na)

Úlairi (3 syllables, stress on second to last: u-LAI-ri)

Eärendur (4 syllables, stress on second to last: e-a-REND-ur)

Aratan (3 syllables, stress on third to last: A-ra-tan)

*Yes, but how does Quenya *really* sound?*

You can listen to Quenya vowels and words at this site:

<http://tolklang.quettar.org/pronguide.html>

A sound file of Tolkien reciting "Namárië" (Galadriel's Lament) can be found here:

http://www.salon.com/audio/2000/10/05/tolkien_elvish/index.html

The words are on the Elvish translations page:

http://www.councilofelrond.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=EZCMS&file=index&page_id=2

Notice that this information is provided as extra help with pronunciation. It is not a mandatory part of the course!.

Vocabulary list 1

1. apsa "cooked food, meat"
2. masta "bread"
3. sáva "juice"
4. pírya "juice, syrup"
5. sulpa "soup"
6. yávë "fruit"
7. porë "flour, meal"
8. culuma "orange"
9. sulca "edible root"
10. coimas "lembas"
11. miruvóre "mead"; a drink poured out at festivals in Valinor
12. limpë "wine, drink of the Valar"

Lesson 2: Nouns, plurals, the definite article

Plurals

The normal Quenya plural is formed by adding the ending *-r* or *-i* to the words. Nouns ending in a vowel, except *-ë*, add *-r*. This also goes for words ending in the combination *-ië*. Examples: *orco + r > orcor* (orcs), *tië + r > tier* (paths)

Nouns ending in just *-ë* replace this final *ë* with *i*. Example: *lótë > lóti* (flowers)

Nouns ending in consonants add *-i*. Example: *sairon + i > saironi* (wizards)

The definite article

Quenya does not have any indefinite article that would correspond to "a" in English. There's only the definite article *i*, meaning "the".

When translating from Quenya to English, we add the indefinite article "a" / "an" where we think it's needed to make the phrase sound natural in English!

Vocabulary list 2

1. *alda* "tree" (the fruit)
2. *cundu* "prince"
3. *anel* "princess"
4. *heru* "lord"
5. *heri* "lady"
6. *roquen* "knight, rider"
7. *cáno* "commander"
8. *istyar* "scholar"
9. *sairon* "wizard"
10. *lambengolmo* "linguist"
11. *tano* "craftsman, smith"
12. *mahtar* "warrior"

A note on "anel": Other Quenya words ending in *-el* get this "l" doubled when an ending is added, so it is possible that the plural of "anel" should be "anelli". We can say that "anell-" is the "stem form" of "anel", but more about this in Lesson 3.

Lesson 3: Dual number and stem variation

Dual numbers

In addition to the normal plural, Quenya also has a dual number, which is used to denote two things naturally forming a pair, such as the two feet of one person. When using a dual form, there is no need to add a special word for "two"; a dual word like "talū" means "two feet" all by itself.

Quenya has two dual markers: -t and -u

- Words that don't already have a "t" or "d" somewhere in them form their duals by adding "-t". Example: aiwë ("bird") > aiwet ("a pair of birds")

Notice: If the word ends in a consonant, an "e" is inserted before the "t" to avoid a strange combination of consonants.

- Words that do have a "t" or "d" add "-u" instead. If the word ends in a vowel, that vowel is displaced by the "u". Example: Alda (tree) > Aldu ("the Two Trees of Valinor")

Notice: Body parts form their duals with "-u", even if the word does not contain a "t" or "d".

Stem variation

Some nouns have a special form, the so-called stem, which is the form all endings are added to. In wordlists, this form is often given in brackets. Example: hen (hend-)

This means that when forming the plural or dual of the noun "hen" (eye), the ending should be added to the form "hend-", producing "hendi" (plural) and "hendu" (dual).

Notice that "hendi" would mean "eyes" in general, while "hendu" would be the two eyes of one person.

Vocabulary list 3

1. car (card-) "building, house"
2. falas (falass-) "shore, beach"
3. lis (liss-) "honey"
4. meren (merend-) "feast, festival"
5. pilin (pilind-) "arrow"
6. seler (sell-) "sister"
7. toron (torn-) "brother"
8. atar "father"
9. amil "mother"
10. hína (plural: híni) "child"
11. huan (hún-) "hound"
12. laman (lamn-) "animal"

Lesson 4: Adjectives, the copula

Adjectives

Quenya adjectives usually end in "-a" or "-ë", or, less often, in "-in".

The normal word order is to let the adjective come before the noun, as in English, e.g. "malina lôtë" (a yellow flower).

Reversed word order may be used for emphasis, in poetry or when the adjective is part of a title e.g. "Elendil Voronda" (Elendil the Faithful)

Adjectives agree in number with the noun they describe, so with a plural noun the adjective must be pluralized. The same rule applies when the adjective describes more than one noun.

The plural endings are:

-ë (for adjectives ending in "-a" in singular)

-ië (for adjectives ending in "-ëa" in singular)

-i (for adjectives ending in "-ë" or "-in" in singular)

Examples:

malina lôtë (a yellow flower) > malinë lóti (yellow flowers)

úmëa atar (an evil father) > úmië atari (evil fathers)

sindë car (a grey house) > sindi cardi (grey houses)

firin orco (a dead orc) > firini orcor (dead orcs)

The copula

When the word "is" is used to connect a noun with an adjective in phrases such as "the flower is yellow" it's referred to as the "copula". The Quenya copula is "ná" (singular) and "nar" (plural). Examples: I lôtë ná malina. (The flower is yellow), I lóti nar malinë (The flowers are yellow).

The copula is sometimes understood (left out), but the normal way is to use it.

Vocabulary list 4

1. vanima "beautiful, fair"
2. halla "tall"
3. anda "long"
4. titta "tiny"
5. úvëa "very large, abundant"
6. nindë "slender"
7. culuina "orange" (the colour)
8. laurëa "golden"
9. luin "blue"
10. malina "yellow"
11. sindë "grey"
12. laica "green"

Lesson 5: The present tense of the verb, adjectival comparison

The present tense

The present tense in Quenya corresponds closely to the present continuous in English; it is used to describe ongoing actions, such as e.g. "the child is eating" (i hína máta) as opposed to "the child eats" (i hína matë). Notice that there is no "is" in the Quenya present tense - "máta" means "is eating" all by itself.

Most verbs in Quenya fall into one of the two main categories:

- * a-stem verbs, also called "derived verbs" (end in "-a")
- * primary or "basic" verbs

The main vowel of a verb is referred to as the "stem vowel". This is usually the first vowel, unless that one is part of a prefix. Keep in mind that neither 'y', nor 'u' in the consonant cluster 'qu' are vowels.

The present tense of basic verbs is formed by lengthening the stem vowel and adding "-a". The acute accent is used to show that the vowel is long. Example: mat- ("eat") > máta ("is eating")

The present tense of a-stems is also formed by adding "-a", but since there would now be two "a" in a row, they turn into "-ëa" instead. The stem vowel is lengthened unless it is followed by more than one consonant. Example: anta- ("give") > antëa ("is giving")

Verbs agree in number with their subjects. The plural is formed by adding the plural ending "-r" to the singular form. Example: i hína máta > i híni mátar

Adjectival comparison

The comparative form of adjectives is not known, but this lack can be circumvented by using "malda" (more) or "lá" (beyond).

Examples: halla (tall) > malda halla (taller, literally: more tall). I toron ná halla lá i seler. (the brother is taller than the sister; literally: the brother is tall beyond the sister).

The superlative of adjectives is formed by adding the prefix "an-". Examples: vanima > anvanima (fair > fairest)

Assimilation, meaning that "an" changes to "al", "ar", "as" or "am", occurs when the adjectives begins in l, r, s or m. Example: laica > allaica (green > greenest), ringa > arringa (coldest), saila > assaila (wisest), melda > ammelda (dearest)

Vocabulary list 5

1. harya- "possess, have"
2. ista- "know"
3. móta- "labour, toil"
4. anta- "give"
5. cen- "see"
6. hlar- "hear"
7. mat- "eat",
8. mer- "wish, desire, want"
9. tul- "come"
10. quet- "speak"
11. hir- "find"
12. mel- "love" (as friend)

Lesson 6: The past tense

The past tense

The past tense of a-stem verbs is formed by just adding the ending "-në" to the stem.

Example: harya- (have) > haryanë (had)

Primary verbs also form their past tense with this ending, but there are some things to think about:

* the past tense ending can be added directly to verb stems ending in -r, -m, -n.

Example: cen- (see) > cennë (saw)

* when the verb stem ends in another consonant, the "n" changes place with the last consonant of the verb stem. This is called nasal infixion. Example: mat- (eat) > mantë (ate)

But when the last consonant of the verb stem is "p", the "infixing" "n" becomes "m" instead. Example: cap- (jump) > campë (jumped)

* verb stems ending in "-l" form their past tense by adding "-lë". Example: mel- (love) > mellë (loved)

There are some irregular verbs as well, such as "túlë" (from "tul-") and "sintë" (from "ista-") but most follow this pattern.

Just as for the present tense, the ending "-r" is added after the tense ending when the verb has a plural subject. Example: "i atar mótanë" (the father worked) - "i atari mótaner" (the fathers worked)

Vocabulary list 6

1. lir- "sing"
2. mac- "hew with a sword"
3. varya- "protect"
4. vinya "new"
5. yerna "old, worn" (of things)
6. nessa "young"
7. linyenwa "old" (of people)
8. qualin "dead"
9. lindë "song"
10. macil "sword"
11. lómë "night"
12. aurë "day"

Lesson 7: The aorist and future tense of the verb

Aorist

Just like English, Quenya can be said to have two tenses that are used to describe actions in the present; the present tense (see Lesson 5), which is used for ongoing actions, and the so called aorist, which is used for "general" or "timeless" actions.

The aorist tense of A-stem verbs looks the same as the verb stem; e.g. harya- (stem: to have) > harya (aorist: has, have).

The aorist tense of primary verbs is formed by adding -i to the stem, *but* this "i" changes to "ë" unless another ending follows after it; e.g. mat- (to eat) > matë (eats, eat)

Just as for the earlier discussed tenses, "-r" is added when the verb has a plural subject. Example: "i laman matë" (the animal eats), but "i lamni matir" (the animals eat). Note that the "real" aorist ending "-i-" is visible here, because of the added plural ending "-r".

The future tense

The future tense is used to describe actions in the future; things that are going to happen. The future tense of both kinds of verbs is formed by adding the ending "-uva". The final "-a" of A-stems is dropped when the future tense ending is added. Examples: harya- > haryuva (will have); mat- > matuva (will eat).

The plural is formed by adding the plural marker "-r". Example: "i roquen haryuva rocco" (the knight will have a horse), but "i roqueni haryuvar rocco" (the knights will have a horse). Or, if the king is generous and the knights will each have a horse of his own; "i roqueni haryuvar roccor" (the knights will have horses).

Vocabulary list 7

1. feuya- "abhor"
2. tur- "rule, control, govern"
3. fir- "die"
4. mitta- "enter"
5. sí "now"
6. mal "but"
7. osto "town"
8. anga "iron"
9. telpë "silver"
10. nórë "country, land, nation"
11. vessë "wife"
12. venno "husband"

Lesson 8: The perfect tense, personal pronouns

The perfect tense

The perfect tense of basic verbs is formed by adding the ending -ië to the verbal stem. The stem vowel (usually the first vowel in the stem) is reduplicated and added as a prefix. It is also lengthened, unless it is followed by more than one consonant.

Step for step example with "mel-" (love):

1. change ending > "melië"
2. reduplicate stem vowel > "emelië"
3. lengthen stem vowel if necessary > "emélië" ("has loved")

The perfect tense of A-stem verbs is formed in exactly the same way, except that the final -a has to be removed before the ending -ië is added. Example: "mitta-" (enter) > "imittië" (has entered)

Special cases:

1. Verbs in "-ya" drop this ending before "-ië" is added. Example: "varya-" (protect) > "avárië" (has protected)
2. Verbs beginning in a vowel get no prefix. Example: "anta-" (give) > "antië" (has given)

Note that the Quenya perfect tense consists of one word only; it is not like English, where we need the auxiliary verb "has" or "have".

Pronouns

Most pronouns in Quenya occur as pronominal endings, which are glued to the end of verbs.

"I" is written as the ending "-n" or "-nyë". Example: "antan" or "antanyë" (I give)

"You" is "-l" or "lyë" Example: "antal" or "antanyel" (you give)

"He, she, it" is "-s" or *"-ryë" Example: "antas" or "antaryë" (he/she/it gives)

The short form is the one most often used in simple constructions like these, but if a second ending is to be added, the long form must be used instead. The pronoun denoting the subject comes first, then the pronoun for the object.

Examples: "antanyel" (I give you), "antalyen" (you give me).

Notice: The form "-ryë" is not attested in Tolkien's writings, but is widely accepted as a possible long form of "-s". Other variants are "-ro" for "he" and "-rë" for "she". All of these are recognized and understood by Quenya students. Use whichever appeals most to you, but please be consistent. Choose either "-ryë" or "-ro/-rë"!

Vocabulary List 8

1. hehta- "abandon, forsake, put aside, exclude"
2. col- "bear, wear, carry"
3. car- "build, make, do"
4. rista- "cut"
5. tec- "write"
6. parma "book"
7. carnë "red"
8. mára "good, useful"
9. morna "black"
10. ninquë "white"
11. lissë "sweet"
12. ringa "cold"

Lesson 9: The infinitive, the negative verb and the active participle

The infinitive

The infinitive of basic verbs is formed by adding the ending -ë to the verbal stem.

Example: "tecë" (to write)

The infinitive of A-stem verbs is identical to the verbal stem. Example: "anta" (to give)

The Quenya infinitive is used much the same as in English; to make it possible to combine several verbs in a sentence. Example: "Melin tecë." (I love to write.)

Notice that Quenya does not have the particle "to" that English has.

The negative verb

Quenya has a special verb that is used together with the infinitive in negative expressions such as "not to do (something)". It can also be used by itself to mean "not to be". The verbal stem is "um-", past tense "úmë", future tense "úva".

Examples:

Umin atar. Úmen atar. Úvan atar. (I am not a father. I was not a father. I will not be a father.)

I hini umir hallë. (The children are not tall.)

I roquen úva móta. (The knight will not toil.)

I toron úmë merë quetë. (The brother did not want to speak) Notice the use of two infinitives here.

The active participle

The active participle is an adjectival word derived from a verb and it is used to describe nouns the same way normal adjectives are. Example: "mótala amil" (a toiling mother)

The active participle is formed by adding the ending -la to the verbal stem and lengthening the stem vowel (unless it is followed by more than one consonant).

Example: "antala" (giving, from "anta-")

For basic verbs, an "a" is added to the stem to avoid "impossible" consonant combinations. Example: "mátala" (eating, from "mat-")

Notice that, unlike adjectives, the active participle does not agree in number with the word it describes. Example: "mótala amil" (a toiling mother), "mótala amili" (toiling mothers)

Vocabulary List 9

1. minë "one"
2. atta "two"
3. neldë "three"
4. canta "four"
5. um- "not to be, not to do"
6. ramya- "to fly"
7. alqua "swan"
8. quetta "word"
9. wilwarin "butterfly"
10. ve "as, like"
11. yondo "son"
12. yeldë "daughter"

Lesson 10: Adverbs, pronouns, verbs in -ya, the passive participle

Adverbs

Adverbs can be formed by adding the ending -vë to adjectives ending in -a. Example: linta ("swift", adjective) > lintavë ("swiftly", adverb)

There are also adverbs not formed from adjectives, such as sí (now), rato (soon), aqua (fully, completely).

Pronominal endings for "they" and "them"

In Quenya, the pronoun "they" is expressed with adding the ending "-ntë" to the verb. Examples: Mótantë (They labour), Mótuvantë. (They will labour), Mótanentë (They laboured).

"them" is expressed with the ending "-t". Example: I amil cennet. (The mother saw them.)

Exception: when "-t" is added to an infinitive of a basic verb, the ending "-ta" is inserted before "-t". Example: I amil merne cenitat. (The mother wished to see them.)

Two pronominal endings can be added to the same verb. Example: Cenuvantet. (verb stem "cen-" + future tense ending "-uva" + pronominal ending "-nte" (subject) + pronominal ending "-t" (object)) Translation: They will see them.

The simple plural ending "-r" is not used when the verb has a pronominal ending. Example: I atari quetuvar. (The fathers will talk) BUT Quetuvantë (They will talk.)

Past tense of verbs ending in "-ya"

Intransitive verbs (verbs that can't have an object) that end in "-ya" drop this ending in the past tense. Example: "ranya-" (to stray) > p.t. "rannë" (NOT "ranyanë")

Transitive verbs in "-ya" keep this ending in the past tense. Example: "hilya-" (to follow) > p.t. "hilyanë"

The passive participle

The passive participle is an adjectival word derived from a verb and it is used to describe nouns. Example: "quétina quetta" (a spoken word).

The passive participle of A-stem verbs is formed by adding the ending -ina to the verbal stem Example: "lantaina" (fallen, from "lanta-")

The ending -ina is also used with basic verbs ending in -c, -t or -p. The stem vowel is lengthened unless it is followed by more than one consonant. Example: "quétina" (spoken, from "quet-").

The passive participle of basic verbs ending in other consonants is formed by just adding the ending -na to the verbal stem. Example: "carna" (made, from "car-").

Exception: in verbs ending in -l, the ending changes into "-da" to avoid the impossible consonant combination "ln". Example: "melda" (loved, from "mel-")

Just like adjectives, passive participles agree in number with the word they describe. Example: "lantaina lassë" (a fallen leaf), "lantainë lassi" (fallen leaves)

Vocabulary List 10

1. lempë "five"
2. enquë "six"
3. otso "seven"
4. tolto "eight"
5. lanta- "to fall"
6. ranya- "to stray"
7. hilya- "to follow"
8. linta "swift"
9. rato "soon"
10. aqua "fully, completely, wholly"
11. oialë "forever"
12. lassë "leaf"

Lesson 11: The genitive case

The genitive case

Just like Russian, German and many other languages, Quenya uses 'cases' and 'case endings' to show the function of a noun in the sentence, but also often instead of prepositions like to, from, on etc. An example from English is the '-s' used to show ownership: "the woman's house".

The endings for the genitive case are "-o" for singular and "-on" for plural.

Example: vessë > vessëo (genitive singular).

If the word ends in "-a", this is removed before the ending is added. Example: quetta > quetto.

If the word ends in an "-o" already, then it has the same form in the genitive.

Example: cáno > cáno

Nouns with special stem forms add the genitive ending to this form. Example: car (card-) > cardo.

For dual, the ending -o is added to the dual form. Examples: car (singular) > cardu (dual) > carduo (genitive dual), hína (singular) > hínat (dual) > hínato (genitive dual)

For plural, the ending "-on" is added to whichever form the word has in plural.

Examples: vessi (plural of vessë) > vession (genitive plural), quettar > quettaron, cardi > cardion.

Genitives can either precede or follow its noun; the important thing to remember is that the ending is added to the 'main' word. Example: "i ataro hína" and "hína i ataro" both mean "the father's child", but "i híno atar" would mean "the child's father".

Only one article is necessary in a genitival phrase. Both "hína i ataro" and "i hína i ataro" mean "the child of the father" ("the father's child").

The genitive case is used for several things and situations in Quenya:

- for family relationships between people
- for relationships between a ruler and the thing that is ruled
- for relationships between places and things located there
- to show that x is a physical part of something else
- to show that x is one of a group of something
- to show origin, source or former ownership
- to mean "of" in the sense "about", "concerning"
- after the preposition "ú" (without)

Notice that the genitive case is not used for denoting current ownership of things. For that, the possessive case, which will be introduced in the next lesson, is used.

Vocabulary List 11

1. nertë "nine"
2. cainen "ten"
3. ú "without, destitute of"
4. lauca "warm" (adjective)
5. parca "dry" (adjective)
6. lusta "empty, void" (adjective)
7. nén (nen-) "water"
8. cuile "life" (noun)
9. lossë "snow" (noun)
10. mistë "rain" (noun)
11. anta "face" (noun)
12. tál (tal-) "foot" (noun)

Lesson 12: The possessive case , verbal nouns

The possessive case

The possessive case is formed by adding the ending -va (-wa if the word ends in a consonant). Example: "i parma vesseva" (the wife's book / the book of the wife), "i parma mahtarwa" (the warrior's book / the book of the warrior).

The plural ending is -iva and it is added to the *singular form* of the noun, that is, not like with the genitive case. Example: "i parma mahtariva" (the book of the warriors). If the word ends in -ë or -i, this vowel merges with the ending to produce a long í. Example: "i parma vessíva" (the book of the wives)

Special case:

If the noun ends in two short syllables, the final vowel becomes long when the ending -va is added. The same happens if the word has the diphthong "ui" in the second to last syllable.

The possessive case is used to denote:

- the current ownership of things
- characteristics and permanent attributes
- the material of which something consists
- the object of a verbal noun

Verbal nouns

Verbal nouns are nouns formed from verbs, such as "lindalë" (singing, from linda-), and describe an action as a process or thing. They can be made from A-stem verbs by adding the ending -lë to the stem.

Vocabulary List 12

1. malta "gold"
2. tavar "wood" (as a material)
3. ondo "stone, rock"
4. cú "bow"
5. sicil "knife, dagger"
6. tópa "roof"
7. ramba "wall"
8. colla "cloak"
9. maita "hungry"
10. soica "thirsty"
11. mapa- "to grasp, to seize"
12. nu "under"

Lesson 13: Dative, gerunds, endings for "we"

The dative case

The dative case is used for the following:

- the indirect (dative) object of a sentence (I gave the book *to the smith*)
- to express "for" in the sense "for someone" (The boy works *for the smith*)
- with gerunds to express purpose (I came *in order to meet* the king)
- with impersonal verbs (It seems *to me*)

The ending for dative case singular is "-n". Example: "i tanon" (to/for the smith). If this ending is to be added to a word that ends in a consonant, an "e" is slipped in to avoid impossible consonant combinations. Example: "i aranen" (to/for the king).

The plural ending is "-in" for words with plurals in "-r" (this "r" is dropped before the dative ending is added), but if the word has a plural in "-i", only "-n" is added.

Example: "i tanoin" (to/for the smiths), i vessin (to/for the wives)

The dual ending is "-nt". Example: "i tanont" (to/for the twin smiths)

The gerund

A gerund is a form of the verb that works like a noun. Quenya gerunds can be formed by adding "-ië" to the verbal stem (A-stems lose their final -a, and verbs ending in -ya drop this entire ending). Example: turië (controlling, from tur-), mótië (toiling, from móta-), hilië (following, from "hilya-").

The gerund in the dative case is used to express the idea of "in order to" / "with the purpose of". Example: I aran túlë turien i nóre. (The king came (in order) to rule the land; literal translation: The king came for ruling the land).

Pronominal endings for "we"

Confusingly enough for mortals, Quenya has several pronominal endings for "we":

- lvë ("inclusive we", including the person(s) addressed)
- lmë ("exclusive we", excluding the person(s) addressed)
- mmë ("dual we" - whether inclusive, exclusive or both is unknown)

Examples:

1. "Turuvavë i nóre, quentë i aran ar i aranel". Inclusive "we" - the king and princess expect to rule with the persons addressed, so perhaps they're addressing their council.
2. "Turuvavmë i nóre, quente i aran ar i aranel." Exclusive "we" - the king and princess don't expect to rule with the persons addressed, so this is what they might say to the people.

3. "Turuvammë i nórë, quente i aran." Dual "we" ("the two of us") - the king might be addressing the princess he'll rule with (inclusive dual), or talking to the people, but with "we" meaning himself and the princess (exclusive dual).

Vocabulary List 13

1. mal "but"
2. var "or"
3. or "over"
4. laire "poem"
5. alassë "joy"
6. minya "first"
7. métima "last, final"
8. melda "dear, beloved"
9. voronda "faithful"
10. valin "happy"
11. laita- "to bless, to praise"
12. mahta- "to fight"

Lesson 14: The allative and ablative cases, possessive pronominal endings

The allative case

The allative case is used to express "to" in the sense "towards", and can also mean "on, upon" and "into".

The ending for allative case singular is -*нна*. Example: "*i ostonna*" (to the town). If this ending is to be added to a word that ends in a consonant, an "e" is slipped in to avoid impossible consonant combinations. Example: "*i cardenna*" (to the house).

The plural ending is -*ннар*. Examples: "*i ostonnar*" (to the towns), "*i cardinnar*" (to the houses). Notice that for plural, the connecting vowel is "i".

The dual ending is -*нта*. Example: "*i ostanta*" (to the twin towns). It is not known how nouns with dual forms in "-u" form the ablative case; two possibilities are "*cardunta*" and "*cardunna*" (both meaning "from the twin houses").

The ablative case

The ablative case is used to express "from", and can also mean "of" (as in "*Rúmil of Tirion*") and "out of". The preposition "*et*" (out) and the verb "*ruc-*" (to fear) are followed by the ablative case. Example: "*et cardello*" (out of/from the house), "*rucin i orcollo*" (I fear the orc.)

The ending for ablative case singular is "-llo". Examples: "*i ostollo*" (from the town); "*i cardello*" (from the house).

The plural ending is "-llon" (with "-llor" as a valid alternative). Examples: "*i ostollon*" (from the towns), "*i cardillon*" (from the houses).

The dual ending is "-lto". Example: "*i ostolto*" (from the twin towns). A noun with dual in "-u" may take the ablative form "*cardulto*" or "*cardullo*" (from the twin houses).

Another possibility to avoid unwanted consonant combinations when adding endings for these two cases is to omit the final consonant. This is commonly used with directions. Examples: *Hyarmenna* (to the South), *Formello* (from the North)

Possessive pronominal endings

These endings are similar to the personal pronominal endings for verbs; they just end in -*a* instead of -*ë*.

- nya (my)
- lya (your)
- rya (his, her, its)
- lva (our; inclusive)
- lma (our; exclusive)
- mma (our; dual)
- nta (their)

When added to a noun ending in a consonant, an "e" is inserted *but* for "-nya" an "i" is used instead. Examples: atarelya (your father), atarinya (my father)

Endings for case and number are added *after* the possessive pronominal endings. Examples: ostonya (my town; singular), ostonyar (my towns; plural), ostonyanna (to my town; allative singular), ostonyallon (from my towns; ablative plural)

Two special verbs

"Equë" means "says" or "said" and is used in direct quotations with a name or full pronoun. This verb has no tenses or plural and is always placed before its subject. Example: "Equë Teleporno." (Celeborn says/said)

"Autä-" (to go away, leave, pass) has two sets of irregular past and perfect tense forms with different meanings. Oantë/oantië means "went away"/"has gone away" in a physical sense, while "vánë/avánië" means "passed"/"has passed" in the sense of being lost, having disappeared or died.

Vocabulary List 14

1. ilya "all, whole" (plural: ilyë)
2. rimba "numerous" (plural: rimbë, "a great number, many")
3. equë "says, said"
4. auta "to leave, to go away, to pass away"
5. ruc- "to fear" (+abl.)
6. caita- "to lie" (e.g. in a bed)
7. hosta- "to collect, to gather"
8. et "out", "from" (+abl)
9. ëar "sea"
10. an "for" (in the sense "because")
11. Formen "(the) North"
12. Hyarmen "(the) South"

Lesson 15: The locative case, relative sentences

The locative case

The locative case is used to express “location”, in time as well as space, and is most often translated “in”, but also “on”.

The ending for locative singular is “-ssë”. Example: “i ostossë” (in the town). If this ending is to be added to a word that ends in a consonant, an “e” is slipped in to avoid impossible consonant combinations. Example: “i cardessë” (in the house).

The plural ending is “-ssen”. Examples: “i ostossen” (in the towns), “i cardissen” (in the houses) Note that for plurals, the connecting vowel is “i”.

The dual ending is “-tsë”. Example: “i ostotsë” (in the twin towns).

Some nouns end in “-ssë” without being locatives, and for these it is better to use the preposition “mi” than the endings. Example: mi Vïressë (in April), mí lossë (in the snow).

Relative sentences

Quenya has two relative pronouns that can be used in relative sentences; “the flower which you saw is beautiful” can be expressed as “i lóte *ya* cennel ná vanima”, but also as “i lóte *i* cennel ná vanima”. Both “ya” and “i” can refer back to persons as well as things, and the translation who/which/that would depend on the context.

The relative pronoun “i” cannot receive any endings, so where a case ending is needed, “ya” must be used instead.

Word order: The verb is usually placed directly after the relative pronoun.
Example: “i osto *yassë* turë i aran” (the town *in which* the king rules) .

Nominative: ya (sing.), yar (plur.) - which

Genitive: yo (sing.), yaron (plur.) – of which, whose

Possessive: yava (sing.), yaiva (plur.) – of which, whose

Dative: yan (sing.), yain (plur.) – for/to which, for/to whom

Allative: yanna (sing.), yannar (plur.) – to which, whither

Ablative: yallo (sing.), yallon (plur.) – from which, whence

Locative: yassë (sing.), yassen (plur.) – in which, wherein

The relative pronoun “i” can also be put in front of a verb to express “the one/s who”.
Example: “i marir ostossë” (those who live in a town), “i mótëa ná halla” ([the one] who is working is tall).

Vocabulary List 15

1. mar- “to dwell, to abide”
2. mi “in”
3. mí “in the”
4. ya “that, which, who”
5. nossë “family, clan, kin”
6. caima “bed”
7. caimassëa “sick, bedridden”
8. lairë “summer”
9. hrivë “winter”
10. nauva “will be”
11. Rómen "(the) East"
12. Númen "(the) West"

Lesson 16: The instrumental case, the imperative

The instrumental case

The instrumental case is used to express how something happened or was done, in the sense by what means, using what or by whom, i.e. I came **by foot**, I hit the enemy **with a stone**, the tree was felled **by me**. It cannot be used to mean "with" in the sense "together with".

The ending for instrumental singular is "-nen". Example: "roconen" (by horse). If the ending is to be added to a word that ends in a consonant other than -n and -r, an "e" is slipped in to avoid impossible consonant combinations.

The plural ending is "-inen". Example: "roccoinen" (by horses). If the ending is to be added to a word ending in -e, this merges with the -i, forming a long í. Example: lassë (leaf) - ***lasseinen* (wrong form) - lassínen (instrumental: by/with leaves).

The dual ending is "-nten". Example: "roconten" (by a pair of horses). It is not known how nouns with dual forms in "-u" form the instrumental case; one possibility is "hendunen" (with two eyes).

The imperative

The imperative is a verb form used for requests and commands. A few 'old' imperative forms ending in -a exist (heca! [be gone], ela! [look]), but the normal way of forming imperatives is with the particle "á".

A-stem verbs use á + the verb stem. Example: "á móta!" (work!)

Basic verbs use á + add -e to the verb stem. Example: "á sucë!" (drink!)

Negative requests/commands are made with the particle "áva" (don't) Example: "áva móta!" (don't work!), "áva sucë!" (don't drink!)

Wishes can be expressed using the word "nai" (be it that) with the future tense of the verb. Example: "Nai hiruvalyë alassë." (be it that you will find joy = I hope that you will find joy = may you find joy).

Vocabulary List 16

1. as "with" (= together with)
2. lelya "to go, to travel" pa. t.: lendë
3. alya "rich, prosperous, blessed"
4. úmëa "evil"
5. lunga "heavy"
6. anna "gift"
7. nér (ner-) "man" (= adult male)
8. nís (niss-) "woman"
9. rocco "horse"
10. mîrë "jewel"
11. taurë "forest"
12. pelecço "axe"

Lesson 17: Demonstratives, u-stem nouns, ordinal numbers

Demonstratives

Demonstratives are words like this/these and that/those, but Quenya has several words for "that", with different shades of meaning. The Quenya demonstratives are placed after the noun they determine, and the plurals are formed like for adjectives ending in -a.

sina - this. Example: "osto sina" (this town)

tana - that. Example: "osto tana" (that town)

enta - that [that over there, yonder; that in the future]. Examples: "osto enta" (that town yonder), "lómë enta" (that (coming)night)

yana - that [that in the past, former]. Examples: "lómë yana" (that night (in the past))

It is not known if the demonstratives can be used by themselves in phrases like "this is a large town", so it's safer to use them as "adjectives" only.

The Quenya case endings are normally used with nouns, but when there is an adjectival word (adjective, participle or demonstrative) *following* the noun it describes, the case ending is often added to that word instead.

Examples:

osto sinanna (to this town; allative)

osto tanallo (from that town; ablative)

macil entanen (by that sword over there; instrumental)

lómë yanassë (in that night in the past; locative)

If the noun is plural, it would still receive its normal plural ending (-r or -i), even though the ending for case is attached to the adjectival word instead. Example: "ostor sinassën" (in these towns). Notice that it is always a valid alternative to use the case ending with the noun, and that it is preferable to do so if the case ending would somehow "clash" with the other word.

U-stem nouns

A few nouns in -o have stems in -u, which are used whenever a case ending or pronominal ending is added. Example: ango (snake) - angun (to a snake; dative) - angulya (your snake)

U-stems ending in -go or -co have plural forms in -gui / -qui. Example: angwi (snakes), rusqui (foxes, from "rusco"), ranqui (arms, from "ranco"). This is maintained with all case endings beginning in "i", e.g. "rusquinen" (by foxes; instrumental).

But, if the case ending does not contain "i", it's added to the normal stem of the word; "ruscullor" (from foxes; ablative).

Ordinals

Most ordinal numbers end in -ëa, just replacing the final vowel of the corresponding cardinal number with this ending:

minë (one) - minya (first)

atta (two) - attëa (second)

neldë (three) - neldëa (third)

canta (four) - cantëa (forth)

lempë (five) - lempëa (fifth)

enquë (six) - enquëa (sixth)

otso (seven) - otsëa (seventh)

tolto (eight) - toltëa (eighth)

nertë (nine) - nertëa (ninth)

Vocabulary List 17

1. sina "this"
2. tana "that"
3. enta "that" (over there, yonder; in the future)
4. yana "that" (former, in the past)
5. angó (angu-) "snake"
6. sangwa "poison"
7. vendë "maiden"
8. tuile "spring" (the season)
9. yávië "autumn"
10. attëa "second" (ordinal number)
11. neldëa "third"
12. pol- "be [physically] able to"

Lesson 18: Independent pronouns, impersonal verbs, lá

Independent pronouns

In most cases, pronouns in Quenya are endings added to verbs, but there are also independent forms (the question mark means that the form is uncertain):

As subject	As object
ni (I)	nye (me)
le (you, plural and polite sg.)	le (you, plural and polite sg.)
ce? (you, familiar sg.)	tye (you, familiar sg.)
ta (it)	ta (it)
me (we)	me (us)
te? tie with case endings (they)	te (them)

The object forms of the independent pronouns are used:

- when the verb has an object but no pronominal ending for the subject
- in imperative phrases
- after gerunds in the dative case expressing "in order to"

Examples:

I aran varyanë nye (The king protected me)

Á hlarë me! (Hear us!)

Mahtanente mapien nye. (They fought to seize me.)

The subject forms of the independent pronouns are used:

- when case endings are needed (yes, *object* endings are added to the *subject* form!)
- when the copula is left out
- as the subject of a sentence (though the pronominal endings are preferred)

Examples:

Á anta nin masta! (Give me bread! "nin" is dative of "ni")

Le vanima. (You [are] beautiful.)

Impersonal verbs

"Óla-" (to dream) and a few other verbs are impersonal, meaning that the person affected by them is not the grammatical subject of the phrase, but is mentioned in the dative case.

Example: Óla i cánon malto. (The commander dreams about gold)

A literal translation would be "[It] dreams *for the commander* about gold".

U-stem verbs

A very small number of verbs have stems in "-u": palu- (to open wide, spread, expand, extend), hlapu- (to fly or stream in the wind), fifiru- (to slowly fade away) and nurru- (to murmur, grumble). Only the active participle, hlápula etc., is known.

Lá

The particle "lá" can mean two things:

- "beyond" (used for comparison)
- "not" (used to negate sentences)

When used as a negation, lá is placed in front of the verb that is to be negated. It is interchangeable with the negative verb ("um-") and preferred in the present and perfect tenses.

Example:

I neri merner apsa. (The men wanted food.)

I neri lá merner apsa (The men didn't want food)

Notice that the Quenya construction is simpler than the English one - "lá" is just inserted, nothing else is changed. "I neri úmer merë apsa." is a perfectly valid, and perhaps more elegant, alternative.

Vocabulary List 18

1. ni / nyë "I" / "me"
2. le "you" (plural + polite singular)
3. tye "you" (familiar singular)
4. ta "it"
5. me "we" / "us"
6. te "them"
7. óla- (impersonal verb) "to dream"
8. or- (impersonal verb) "to urge, impel", can be used for "feel moved to, would like to"
9. mauya- (impersonal verb) "to compel", can be used for "have to, must"
10. lá 1. "beyond" (comparison) 2. "not" (negation)
11. saila "wise"
12. alta "large"

Lesson 19: Pronouns in imperative phrases, emphatic pronouns

Pronouns in imperative phrases

Pronouns can be used with imperatives to specify whom the command or request is directed at, and also to whom/what the addressee is asked to do something.

For the subject, an ending is added to the verb:

One addressee: -t

Several addressees: -l

Examples:

Á matet! ("Eat!" - directed at one person)

A matel! ("Eat!" - directed at several persons)

For the object, the object form of the independent pronoun is added to the imperative particle "á" (or, for negative requests, to "áva"), but can also be used as a separate word. If both a direct and an indirect pronoun are to be used, one of them must be a separate word, as only one pronoun at a time can be glued to á / áva.

Examples:

Áte hilya! ("Follow them!")

Á hilya te! ("Follow them!")

Ávate hilyal! ("Don't follow them!"... specifically directed at a group of addressees)

Ánin antat ta! ("Give that to me"... dative of "ni", one addressee, independent object pronoun)

Emphatic pronouns

In addition to the independent pronouns already introduced, there are also emphatic forms, which are used to put special emphasis on the pronoun (the asterisk means that the form is likely, but not attested in Tolkien's writings):

inyë (I)

elyë (you)

*eryë (he, she, it)

*elme (we, exclusive)

*elvë (we, inclusive)

emmë (we, dual)

*entë (they)

Examples:

Mélan elyë. (I love *you* ... "I love you and nobody else")

Inyë méla lyë. (*I* love you... "I'm the one who loves you")

Notice that the verb does not take any pronominal endings when an emphatic pronoun is used as the subject (but would receive the usual -r with a plural subject).

There is another type of emphatic pronouns; possessive ones. The two existing examples are "menya" (our) and "ninya" (my).

Question-words

man (who?)

mana (what?)

manen (how?...instrumental)

*manan (why?...literally "what for?"...dative)

*massë (where?...locative)

*manna (where to?...allative)

*mallo (where from?...ablative)

The known word for "when", "írë", is a relative pronoun, not an interrogative one. A possible circumlocution for the question-word "when?" is "lú manassë?" (at what time?).

Postpositions

Two postpositions are known, and they are placed after the word they connect with.

yá (ago) Example: *atta loar yá* (two years ago)

pella (beyond) Example: *Marin i taurë pella*. (I dwell beyond the forest.)

Vocabulary List 19

1. loa "year"
2. yá "ago"
3. pella "beyond"
4. írë "when"
5. man "who?"
6. mana "what?"
7. manen "how?"
8. inyë "I" (emphatic pronoun)
9. elyë "you" (emphatic pronoun)
10. elmë "we" (exclusive, emphatic pronoun)
11. elvë "we" (inclusive, emphatic pronoun)
12. emmë "we" (dual, emphatic pronoun)

Lesson 20: To be, to exist; questions with ma; sa

The verb "to be"

Three forms of the verb "to be" are known:

ná / nar (is, are) - present and aorist

nauva (will be) - future tense

né / ner (was) - past tense

These verb forms can be combined with pronominal endings just like other verbs.

Examples:

nan / nanyë (I am)

nal / nalyë (you are)

nat (you are - intimate singular)

nas / naryë (he / she / it is)

nalmë / nalvë / nammë (we are, excl / incl. / dual)

nantë (they are)

But, it is just as permissible to leave out the copula altogether and use an independent form of the pronoun instead. Examples: Ni nér. (I am a man.) Elyë vanima. (*You* are beautiful.)

Eä - to be, to exist

There is also another verb with similar meaning: "eä". This form can be both the present/ aorist tense, meaning "it is", and the imperative, translated "let it be". The past tense is "engë" and the future tense is suggested to be "euva".

Eä is used to say that something exists or is present. It is also a better choice than "ná" when talking about the position of something. Examples: Wilwarini ëar (Butterflies exist). Eä nís i cardessë ([There] is a woman in the house).

Ma - a word for questions

All the "question-words" introduced in the previous lesson begin with "ma", and it is believed, though not directly exemplified in Tolkien's writings, that "ma" by itself can be used to turn statements into questions.

Example: I rocco ná linta. (The horse is swift). Ma i rocco ná linta? (Is the horse swift?)

Sa - that

"Sa" is used for "that" in phrases like "They know that you are here" (Istantë sa ëalyë sinomë) and "I said that you are beautiful" (Quentë sa nalyë vanima.)

Vocabulary List 20

1. ma (*possible* interrogative particle)
2. sa "that"
3. sinomë "here" (literally "in this place")
4. tenna "until, as far as"
5. ëa "is, exists"
6. maquet- "to ask"
7. lerta- "can, to be allowed to"
8. ista- "to know" (also "to be able to" because one has the knowledge or intellectual capacity)
9. lambë "language, tongue"
10. oron (oront-) "mountain"
11. liantë "spider"
12. tári "queen"